

In a June 25 [article](#), *HuffPost* writer Molly Redden falsely claims that Ken Griffin opted to move our company, Citadel, from its headquarters in Chicago because of the Illinois gubernatorial primary loss of Richard Irvin. But Ken's decision to leave Illinois had nothing to do with Richard Irvin's campaign. In fact, Ken supported Richard even months after he, his family and many of his senior partners made the decision to move.

Citadel left Chicago because Ken could no longer ask employees to endure the city's spiraling violent crime problem, which was endangering them and their families. This wasn't mere "complaining" in some generalized or abstracted sense, as the article dismissively suggests, but was rather about a number of specific, disturbing examples of Citadel employees who were victimized in the years immediately preceding the decision—with everything from carjackings to stabbings to bullets fired directly at them.

Had Molly Redden given Ken an opportunity to respond to anonymous claims to the contrary, he could have recounted these harrowing stories in detail. Alternatively, she could have quoted one of the many times Ken has publicly discussed them, both before, during and after the move.

Instead, in an apparent attempt to make Ken's comments seem insincere or ill-informed, she misleadingly writes that in 2021, "when [Ken] began complaining, overall crime in Chicago had actually fallen for three years." But anyone who clicks through to her source for that claim will find that the number of murders in Chicago rose every year from 2019-2021, and overall crime increased by a stunning 41% from 2021 to 2022.

Nor is it the case that Ken and Citadel are unique in deciding to leave Illinois. Ms. Redden withholds from her readers the fact that a number of large companies, such as Boeing and Caterpillar, left the state in the months before and after our decision, and that the state's population has, according to the latest data, declined for a staggering eight consecutive years, losing multiples more residents than any other state in the Midwest.

Rather than grappling with these facts or seeking to understand Ken's actual motivation for leaving, the piece relies on the unfounded opinion of an unnamed person claiming Ken's decision was somehow due to the defeat of Illinois gubernatorial primary candidate Richard Irvin. Richard was defeated by a far-right candidate whose largest supporter ironically was J.B. Pritzker. The Governor knew that Richard – the first African-American Mayor to lead Illinois' second-largest city, a veteran, a tough on crime prosecutor and an example of the American Dream – would present a formidable challenge in the general election so he spent tens of millions of dollars meddling in the Republican Primary.

Rather than reporting on the Governor's shameful and cowardly political tactics, Molly Redden based her bizarre thesis of Ken's personal motivations on a single quote from a vaguely attributed "source deeply rooted in Chicago's business community" to whom she grants anonymity in contravention of basic journalism standards.

The Ethics Committee of the Society of Professional Journalists, for instance, [writes](#) that "reporters should use every possible avenue to confirm and attribute information before relying on unnamed sources." And that "the reporter owes it to the readers to identify the source as clearly as possible without pointing a finger at the person who has been granted anonymity" because "[t]he public is entitled to as much information as can be provided on sources' reliability."

After a crackdown on the use of anonymous sourcing, *The New York Times* [told](#) reporters that "[d]irect quotes from anonymous sources should be used rarely, and only when such quotes are pivotal to the story."

NPR [writes](#) unequivocally that anonymous sources "should never be heard attacking or praising others" because it is "unfair to air a source's opinion on a subject of coverage when the source's identity and motives are shielded from scrutiny."

And yet by all appearances the *Huffington Post* allowed an anonymous source to malign Ken's motives without the slightest substantiation, without adding any news or informational value to the story, and without providing even a basic sense of why readers should consider the source or the source's opinion to be informed, credible or free from ulterior motives.

We think readers are smart enough to see the problem here.

The truth is that Ken has a deep personal affection for the city of Chicago and it was only with considerable regret that he decided to leave. Contrary to the cynical and evidence-free assertion that Ken's relationship with the city was purely transactional, he has given hundreds of millions of dollars to the Chicago community, including over \$130 million in the month of June as he was leaving. He supported charitable causes that have nothing to do with his political or business interests, from enhancing public spaces to improving educational options and supporting leading healthcare organizations. Concurrently, during his thirty years in Chicago, Citadel recruited more talent to Chicago from around the world than any other firm, talent that has played an incredible role in helping Chicago maintain its global competitiveness. As John Canning wrote in the *Chicago Tribune* last year, "[there is one thing that we \[all Chicagoans\] can all agree on: Chicago will miss the enduring impact of Ken Griffin and Citadel.](#)"