

Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

For Immediate Release:

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For More Information:

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Ford's Resolution Naming Mandela Road Passed by General Assembly

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Introduced by state Representative La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, a resolution to designate a portion of Cicero Avenue as Mandela Road passed the Senate today, after being previously passed by the House. Ford introduced HJR0089

(<http://ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocTypeID=HJR&DocNum=89&GAID=12&SessionID=85&LegID=81997>) to honor the late South African statesman, Nobel Peace Prize winner, and First President of the post-apartheid South Africa, Nelson Mandela. The resolution passed both the House and the Senate in unanimous, bipartisan votes.

“I urge the governor to direct the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to prepare a date to make the dedication as soon as Nelson Mandela's July 18th birthday this year,” said Ford. “I also urge IDOT to not only install the signs, but to also make improvements to the street lights on Mandela Road, from West Grand Avenue to Roosevelt Road. We must use this opportunity to assess and plan to improve the quality of life in the Austin community along Mandela Road.”

“President Nelson Mandela is an inspiration to many and has been an example during our own lifetimes of the power of love, reconciliation, and non-violent resistance, following in the line of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,” said Ford. “It is a small gesture to designate part of Cicero Avenue as Mandela Road. The part of Illinois Route 50 that is now Mandela Road flows through the district I represent. Our eventual goal is to change the name of the entire length of Illinois Route 50 to Mandela Road, as it will help us to remember that even with Nelson Mandela's death, we must continue to drive for excellence for the whole human race. Illinois Route 50 is the perfect state highway to be renamed, as it crosses so many different communities and will remind us of the almost miraculous work that Nelson Mandela undertook as he brought together people in his own country and all over the world to advance peace, democracy and opportunity. We can come together to send a message that Illinois stands for a strong road for justice. His work should be an inspiration for us to work for these same goals,” said Ford.

Illinois Route 50 is a north-south state road in northeastern Illinois, running from the junction with U.S. Route 45 in West Kankakee north to U.S. Route 41 in Skokie for a distance of 66 miles. “As we honor Nelson Mandela, I want to thank our many supporters of this bill, and I look forward to working with all stakeholders to improve our communities served by Mandela Road,” said Ford.

For more information, contact one of Ford's constituent service offices: 816 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park at [708-445-3673](tel:708-445-3673), 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at [773-378-5902](tel:773-378-5902) or in the Stratton Office Building in Springfield at [217-782-5962](tel:217-782-5962), or visit www.lashawnford.com.

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