

# Media Advisory



*From State Representative La Shawn K. Ford*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**February 23, 2018**

State Rep. La Shawn Ford  
Office: 217-557-4054

## **Ford, CPD and Health Care Providers Call for K2 Crack Down**

**CHICAGO-** Illinois State Representative La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) will host a press conference on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at 4808 W. Madison along with community partners Westside Health Authority (WHA), Habilitative Systems, Inc. (HSI), Garfield Park Chamber of Commerce (GPCC), Bobby E. Wright Mental Health Facility Chicago (BWCMMHC), Chicago Police Department and Hartgrove Hospital calling for the end of gas stations and local stores selling K2.

“K2 is currently illegal in Illinois, but yet the drug is still sold out of neighborhood gas stations and stores. K2 is known for causing erratic behavior in those who take it,” said Ford. “It is important that we explain the dangers of drugs such as K2 to the community and work on solutions to prevent the sale of these type of drugs in our neighborhoods. It’s illegal to sell but it’s being sold to teenagers. This drug is dangerous, and if caught with it is a felony punishable 1-3 years.”

In 2016, the synthetic marijuana K2 became illegal. It is currently against the law to distribute or manufacture the synthetic drug. Quiwana Bell, COO of Westside Health Authority is also in the fight to bring attention and advocacy around the issue of K2 that has become an increasing problem in Chicago.

“We, at the Westside Health Authority, continue to see the devastating effects that the illegal sale of K2 by local gas stations has caused on the young men and women on the West Side,” said Bell. “Many youths have become severely addicted to this substance—often causing them to exhibit extremely volatile and violent behavior. I am appalled that any store that wants to do business in our community has the gall to sell this stuff to our kids. They need to be stopped and held accountable for breaking the law.”

For more information, contact Ford’s constituent service office in Springfield at 217-782-5962.

<b>WHO:</b>	Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, COO Quiwana Bell (WHA), President/CEO Donald J. Dew (HSI), CEO/President Siri Hibbler (GPCC), CEO Dr. Rashad Saafir (BWCMMHC), Chicago Police Department, & Hartgrove Hospital
<b>WHAT:</b>	Press Conference Calling for the End of Gas Stations and Local Stores selling K2
<b>WHEN:</b>	Monday, February 26, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m.
<b>WHERE:</b>	4808 W. Madison St Chicago IL 60644