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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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**For More Information:**

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## **Ford Pushes Creative Ideas to Fund More Police in High Crime Areas**

**CHICAGO** - State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) in recent weeks has been pushing creative ideas in his efforts to make the streets of the 8<sup>th</sup> District safer. In addition to asking the governor to send National Guard troops to assist police, he has filed legislation to create a scratch-off lottery ticket to help pay for additional police officers and has publicly called on Congress to send more resources for law enforcement.

“The legislative process is a notoriously slow and deliberative process, and when kids are dying in the streets almost every day, we need immediate action,” Ford said. “I don’t want anyone to interpret my efforts as a rebuke of the men and women currently serving in law enforcement, when it is in fact an attempt to get these brave officers more help. If we don’t find a better way to put more police in high-crime areas, the criminals will continue to have control of these neighborhoods.”

Ford recently introduced House Resolution 1208, calling on Congress – a body that is allowed to deficit spend and has more resources available than the state of Illinois – to send funds to help municipalities hire more police officers. He also recently filed House Bill 6865 to create a “Scratch Out Crime” lottery ticket, where net revenue from the sale of this special ticket would be distributed to municipalities, based on population, for the purpose of hiring municipal police officers.

“Recent history has shown that when we give people a chance to vote with their wallets by purchasing special lottery tickets to fund important causes, we are able to generate new revenue at a time when doing so is not politically popular,” Ford said. “The reality is that our state is broke and our leaders are talking about firing police officers rather than hiring more. We need to do better, and I won’t stop looking for new and creative ways to address the most important issues facing our community.”

For more information, call Ford's constituent service office at (773) 378-5902.

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