



Press Release

From State Representative and Chicago Mayoral Candidate La Shawn K. Ford

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Ford Pushes to End Doubling of Parking Fines and Fees

CHICAGO- Illinois State Representative, and Chicago Mayoral Candidate La Shawn K. Ford, (D-Chicago), believes Chicagoans are paying too hefty of a price for parking tickets, sticker violations, and fines in Chicago. Ford is currently recommending reforms needed to bring fairness to correct Chicago's current policy of doubling parking tickets and fines.

"The current system is an attack on Chicago's families," says Ford. "The penalty for an expired parking meter is excessive. The punishment is not fitting the crime. We must end the practice of doubling fines for tickets that are paid late. If a person cannot afford to pay \$100, how can he/she pay \$200?"

Ford is not alone in his assessment that the system is broken, and targeting the city's low-income, Black and Latino communities the hardest. Research revealed in an August 2018 story on Chicago's predatory tickets and fines by The Chicago Reporter confirms this situation. In the story, surveys were conducted along with research independently by the Community Organizing and Family Issues, Chicago Jobs Council, The Woodstock Institute, and WBEZ/ProPublica. Illinois showed commonalities that there is a clear pattern of excessive ticketing. Late fees typically are twice as high in lower-income communities, and nearly 30 percent higher in minority neighborhoods. Ford believes reforms are needed to help change these attacks on families in Chicago.

"Government protects consumers from excessive late fees. No lender, creditor, or landlord is allowed to double a debt for late payments," adds Ford. "As mayor, I plan to work with City Council to end these predatory policies that drive people deeper into poverty. Hardworking Chicagoans struggling to make ends meet should not be at risk of losing vehicles worth thousands of dollars for inability to pay a \$50 parking ticket."

Transparency, equity and accountability are just a few of the critical solutions Ford plans to bring to City Hall in his run for mayor of Chicago. Other areas of focus of his mayoral platform include: Equity in Education; Inclusive Economy; Safer Communities; and Health & Quality of Life. For more details on Ford's full policy issues, visit: www.FordforChicago.com.

For more information, please contact Rep. Ford's campaign office at 5850 W. North Ave., Chicago, or visit www.FordforChicago.com.

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